

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of September 19, 2005**

1. State Funds for Community Center Approved: On Wednesday, September 21, the Maryland Board of Works formally approved \$350,000 in Bond Bill (matching grant) funds and \$247,324 in Program Open Space funds for the construction of the Takoma Park Community Center. The funds had been awarded previously, but were not official until approved by the Board of Public Works. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Wards 1 and 2):

a. The City has been informed that 7209 Flower Avenue (6 units) is being sold and that there is a third party contract for \$599,000. The tenants were informed of their right to purchase by the owner. A follow-up letter to the tenants was also sent by the City.

b. The tenants residing at 7300 Flower Avenue (6 units) have been informed that their rental property is being sold. There is a third party contract for \$690,000. The tenants have been informed of their right to purchase by the owner and the City.

c. The tenants residing at 113 Ritchie Avenue have been informed of the sale of the single family rental house. The property is selling for \$280,000. A follow-up letter was sent by the City to the tenants. Staff also has been contacting local non-profit organizations to see if they might have any interest in purchasing the house. (*Housing and Community Development*)

3. Affordable Housing (all wards): Each year, the City of Takoma Park partners with Montgomery County and other government and non-profit organizations to sponsor the Montgomery County Housing Fair. There will be over 50 exhibitors this year and workshops on Consumer Scams, Managing Money and Credit, and Home Buying. Free credit reports and credit counseling will be available (Spanish and English). This is a wonderful place for a First Time Homebuyer to get all the information that is needed to eventually become a homeowner. Admission is free!! The Fair will be held on Saturday, October 1, from 10am-4pm, at Bohrer Park (506 S. Frederick Avenue) in Gaithersburg. Please see Takoma Park's website (www.takomagov.org) for further information and directions to the Fair. (*Housing and Community Development*)

4. After School Programs: Tennis and outdoor soccer clinics are underway. So far, 30 kids have signed up for tennis and 15 for soccer. Both programs are for beginners and intermediate students. Fundamentals and having fun are taught at these after school programs. (*Recreation*)

5. Touch a Truck: The second annual Touch a Truck was a big hit with the smaller community! Approximately 300 people climbed on the various Public Works trucks: dump truck, backhoe, recycling truck and trash truck. We had two special guests that day. The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department brought their fire engine, and Officer Butler brought his police cruiser so the kids and their adult companions could simulate a police ride. All the kids received a free yellow construction hat. We had a short reception that followed the event to display our fall tot programs. (*Recreation*)

6. **Street Restoration (Ward 6):** Milling of Glenside Avenue (from Jackson to Merwood) took place on Friday, September 23, and will continue on Cole on Monday, September 26. Resurfacing of both streets is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27. Concrete curb and gutter work will begin on Holton Lane on the same day. *(Public Works)*

7. **New Officers:** Two applicants have been hired to fill police officer vacancies. Mr. David Quante and Mr. Matthew Barber will begin work with the police department on October 17. Both of them will enter the University of Maryland Police Academy on October 24. *(Police)*

8. **Traffic Enforcement:** 64 of 77 traffic stops resulted in enforcement action. This action was City-wide as opposed to concentration in a particular area. *(Police)*